

Pumas Cut a Rug at Winter Formal

By Elysse Hillyer
News Editor

It was a chilly night, but Pumas were out in full force and fancy dress for the annual Winter Formal. The dance took place on Saturday, December 5th in the Halleck Center ballroom. Everyone hurried into the room to get out of the cold. It was decorated with wintry lights and tables. There were snacks and drinks in the back of the room for those who got hungry or thirsty from all the dancing. Music was provided by junior Art major Andrew Dudich and lighting was done by Tuff Customers DJ Crew.

The Winter Formal is hosted by Halas and Justin Halls, so the ladies in charge of those dorms were on front of the ballroom selling tickets and marking the hands of those who had paid with a silver star. It was \$3 per person, and a bargain of \$5 for a couple.

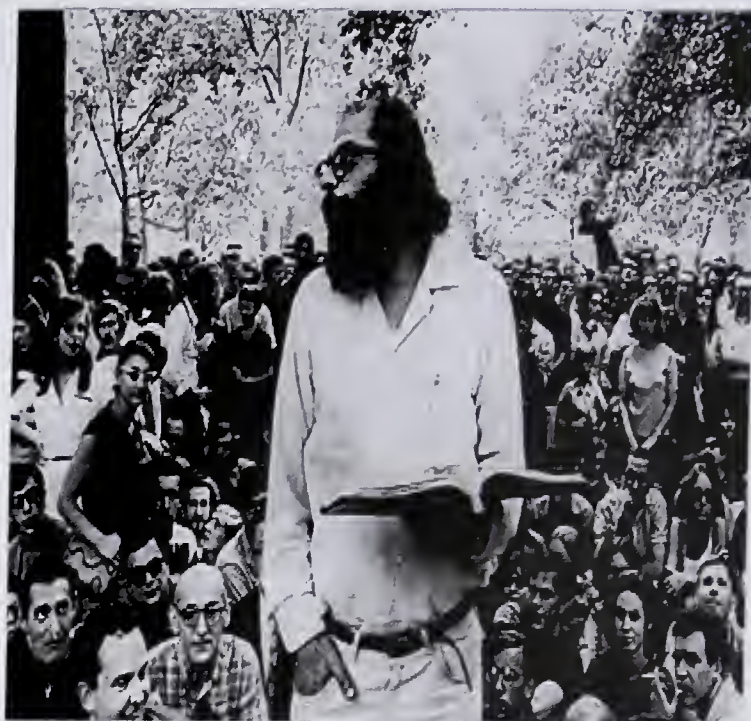
Students were able to dance from nine until one in the morning. Judging by the number of people who attended, a lot of money was made that night for the dorms. Girls came dressed in their best dresses with their hair done in fancy ways and the guys dressed nicely as well. Even though their ears were ringing, everyone enjoyed dancing to the loud techno and rap music, as well as classics like the Macarena, the Cha Cha Slide, and the Electric Slide. A crowd favorite was the Lonely Island song "I'm on a Boat." Students yelled out the lyrics about Santana champagne and nautical themed pashmina afghans and jumped up and down with the beat.

By eleven o'clock, the ballroom was packed with students having fun and dancing the night away. It was hot, but that didn't stop Pumas from having a great time. Those who got tired sat at

the tables on the edge of the dance floor and just took in the scene. It was hard to sit for long though because the beats were infectious and the general mood of the room was that of partying all night long. Those who did not attend must surely be kicking themselves that they made other plans that evening. Everyone was disappointed when the music stopped at one. They collected their coats and cameras, and filed out into the clear, cold night. The starry sky provided the perfect backdrop to the end of a lovely night full of fun and cutting the rug.

"I had a really great time at the dance. There were so many people and the music and lights were awesome! It was a good chance to let loose before finals and to just hang out with my friends. I'm glad that we get to have a formal so people can get all dressed up," said sophomore Political Science major Gloria Thornburg.

It was a great way to finish off the semester at Saint Joseph's College, and after a night full of fun, it's back to the books for Pumas to get ready for finals.



Allen Ginsberg reads his famous poem "Howl."
Photo Courtesy of <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/04/books/04howl.html>

Measure Finishes Semester With a Beat Classic

By Elysse Hillyer
News Editor

On Wednesday, December 2nd, a small group of students gathered down in Cup 'O Joe for the final Measure reading of the semester. Measure, the campus literary arts magazine, has been having monthly readings of student work all semester. For the final reading, the Measure staff decided to read the famous poem "Howl" by Allen Ginsberg. It was written in 1956 and remains one of the most famous works to come out of the Beat era. It was deemed obscene when first released, but eventually gained more public acceptance.

With this in mind, the students at the reading set out to do poetic justice to Mr. Ginsberg's controversial work. They gathered around a table and sat on the floor with the book containing the poem. Each person took turns reading a page each and then passing the poem on.

It was difficult work sometimes due to the fact that the first part of the poem is a very long stream of conscience piece. The readers all were confused at the second part when there was much mention of Moloch, an unknown figure for them. The final part was written to a friend of Ginsberg's, Carl Solomon. The end footnote declared everything to be holy, on a much lighter note than the earlier parts of the poem.

Although it was a very serious poem about the problems facing the Beat Generation, the readers couldn't help but giggle occasionally about a few dirty lines. They also pounded on the table with their hands to create a beat to go along with the poem and set a mood.

With such a small group, the reading went quickly for such a long poem and each of the members of the group felt involved in the reading. It helped to have such an intimate atmosphere to read the poem in and everyone enjoyed adding their own beats to the rhythm of the poem.

Even though the students were not reading a work of their own at this Measure reading, they brought their own flavor to a classic poem.

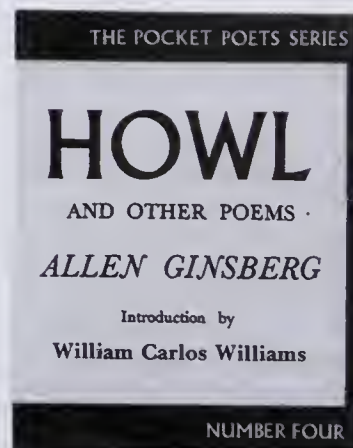


Photo Courtesy of <http://www.housmans.com/booklists/CultFiction.php>



Students get down and show off their moves at the Winter Formal.
Photo by Elysse Hillyer

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Students Do More Than Sweet, Sweet Voices Drinking at Core XI

By Sabrina Butts
Staff Writer

Before Thanksgiving break, the basement of Halleck was full of people singing-sometimes in key, sometimes not. This wasn't because of Core XI, as it may be usually. The singing was because of the Karaoke Night hosted outside by SUB. A good group of people made it down to either give singing outside their shower stall a try or to cheer on their friends as they made the attempt instead.

A wide variety of music was made available to choose, from songs from musicals and boy bands to love ballads and fast paced songs that some singers struggled to keep up with. This reporter attempted to sing "One Week" with a friend, only to realize the song was much faster than I had remembered. Still, even those who did not frequent the Broadway stage were applauded and cheered on by the crowd that gathered throughout the night.

Students went up in groups or alone, often singing songs

that people recognized and would sing along to quietly or loudly, depending on the singer's performance. One particular group of guys went up to do a rendition of "I Swear" and ended up leaving the audience in stitches as they harmonized on notes that may or may not have existed. Nonetheless, everyone applauded their courage and showmanship, which entertained us all.

It was good to see an event that gave students a chance to take the stage. So many of the events put on by SUB include great performers that leave the audience in their seats (or dancing next to the stage) so the difference was a great change that many students seemed to appreciate. The next SUB event, at the time that this article was written, will be Thursday, December 10. Come out and see some professionals entertain the student body, but also look for chances to go out and strut your stuff as well. Good luck on finals Pumas.



Old time microphone.
Photo courtesy of: <http://images.google.com/images?gbv=2&hl=en&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla%3Aen-US%3Aofficial&sa=1&q=microphone&aq=0&>

Beatboxing in the Ballroom

By Amber Melvin
Staff Writer

On November 12 a two man band called ScratchTrack came to Saint Joseph's College. I'll be the first to admit, when the band was getting ready to play and I was looking at how many people were there, I felt that this band was not going to be fun, but I was quickly proved wrong.

The band consisted of two men named, DJ Lee and Jason Hamlin. DJ Lee was the lead vocalist and Jason Hamlin played acoustic guitar. When they first began, I felt that they got off to a rocky start. Jason's guitar playing was too loud and it was slightly irritating because you could not hear the individual notes very well and it sounded very lumped together.

DJ Lee started beatboxing and recorded it and incorporated it into their songs, once he began singing. I thought that once they

got started, everyone started to get into it more and more.

DJ Lee did a really good job getting the audience involved in their songs, such as having them clap. They also did another thing that I really enjoyed and that was singing songs that were originally sung by other artists, such as Marvin Gaye. They sang those songs, then they asked the audience who sang that song and what is the song name.

After the first few songs and the audience getting involved in it, made it a more enjoyable time for everyone.

I asked a couple of the attendees what their opinions were.

"I thought the blend of acoustic and hip-hop sounded extremely unique, and the way they sampled their beatboxing was awesome. However, I

By Anna Rohaly
Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College Concert Choir performed at their annual Fall Choral Concert on the weekend of November 15. The choir was conducted by Saint Joseph's own Dr. Todd Samra.

The performance began with three unaccompanied English part-songs which were sung by the Chamber Singers. The songs were *Orpheus, with his Lute* by George Macfarren, *My Love Dwelt in a Northern Land* by Edward Elgar, and *Lay a Garland* by Robert Pearsall.

The Chamber Singers breathtaking harmonies filled the room and dazzled the audience, preparing them for the main song of the evening *Carmina Burana*. The words were written as poetry by German monks and were later set to the intricate music composed by Carl Orff. The languages in the musical piece are

To All Pumas:

Thank you for a great semester. Have a safe and happy holiday season with your families and friends. We look forward to seeing you when the new classes start on January 11th. Just a reminder that SJC staff will be entering rooms over the holiday break so please make sure all

Photo Courtesy of http://blog.pennlive.com/afterdark/2008/09/acoustic_hiphoppers_scratch_tr.html



thought that most of their songs lacked individuality...they all sounded very similar to each other" stated Freshman Computer Science major Nicholas Fetcko.

I agree with Fetcko, especially the part where he talks about their songs being very similar to one another.

Sophomore Music major Monica Mockler stated, "I was surprised how well the guy who was beatboxing [DJ Lee] could play any song at random and have it go so well with the acoustic guitar. I always enjoy a band that

Latin and German.

The choir was accompanied by two talented pianists, Bernard Sell and Shellie Johnson, and also by percussion instruments played by Senior Psychology major Randy Schlegel and Freshman Music major Kelsey Daning. Throughout the difficult piece of music the accompanists backed the singers with beautiful and skillful playing. There were also numerous solos in the piece, which starred the seniors Music major Sarah Wright, English major Joseph Stewart, Tom Lohmuller, History major Bailey Snider, Bio-Chem major Kevin Mackowicz, and Music major Mary Katherine Simons.

The hard work of the vocalist, musicians, and conductor paid off, resulting in a delicious performance.

of your appliances are unplugged, refrigerators are defrosted, dishes are washed, trash is taken out, windows are locked, curtains are closed, and doors are locked as you leave for home. If you are just going down the street, or halfway across the world, have safe travels, and Merry Christmas.
-The Observer Staff

Upcoming Events

December 10-
Musician Carey Judd
9:00 P.M Ballroom

December 11-
Last day of classes
8:00 P.M- Jazz/
Improv Christmas
Show in the Theatre
10:00 P.M- 24 Hour
Quiet Hours begin for
All Dorms

December 13-
2:00 P.M. SJC Band
Christmas Concert in
the Ball room
4:00 P.M.- Chambers
Singers Concert in the
Chapel

December 14- Final
Exams Begin

December 17-
6:00 P.M. Residence
Halls Close
7:00 P.M Men's
Basketball vs IU
Northwest

In case you were unable to make it the concert or want more information about this fantastic band, you can check them out on www.myspace.com/scratchtrack.com or www.scratchtrackmusic.com.

Many thanks to SUB for bringing performers such at ScratchTrack to Saint Joseph's College, and we look forward to what SUB has planned for next semester.

Newest Phenomenon Destroys Dignity and Common Sense of its Readers

By Mike Koscielny
Editor-in-Chief

So listen, it is time we have a talk. There is an issue on campus I feel it is my duty as a concerned member of society to address. There is an epidemic so filthy that has spread itself across this beautiful campus—something grotesque that has marred the students and created an appalling mess in its wake. And no, I am not talking about another round of the Puma Plague.

I'm talking about this repulsive obsession everyone seems to have with *Twilight*.

That's right. This is an intervention. I am sick and tired of seeing well-respected individuals reduce themselves to such smutty levels of ignorance. It is time we, as a student body, reclaimed our honour and return our lives to a state of normalcy that has nothing to do with glittery, sparkling vampires and jailbait werewolves.

Don't try and deny it. On the nineteenth of November, almost the entirety of my facebook live feed consisted of people's laments that they still had to wait another day to see the new movie or people's exclamations of joy because they were going to a midnight showing. It took all I could do not to just vomit all over my keyboard. People I know, people I love and people I respect were losing their minds—and their dignity, for that matter—over this awful movie-adaptation

of one of the worst book series ever written.

These movies have created a media frenzy and made quite a bit of money from ticket sales. Why, I wonder, when every single review I have seen has said it is downright awful? For the same reason Miley Cyrus has an album that has gone triple platinum. Because corporate monsters live to make money at the expense of naive, gullible and tasteless tweens who can control their parents' pocketbooks; that's why.

But wait! To make this sad story even more grotesque, these films have also taken advantage of another appalling demographic—that of the American housewife. A friend of mine recounted her experience at the midnight showing of the film. She said there was a gaggle of older women sitting in front of her speaking quite candidly and explicitly about their feelings for the movie's star, Taylor Lautner.

Lautner, who plays a toposless werewolf in the movie, is an actor of only seventeen. That's right, seventeen. Remember that, as I have more proof this *Twilight* crap has gotten out of hand. A 40-year-old woman approached Lautner and removed her underwear for him to sign. You read that right—removed her underwear! And, if that's not wildly inappropriate enough, Lautner told reporters that his name was printed on the aforementioned undergarment.

Now, digressing before I vomit, I want to address the

people who will try to defend themselves by claiming a level of awareness that the movies are, in fact, steaming piles of elephant dung. However, they claim to only watch it because the books are so good, and they want to see them come to life.

Fail. That is still not okay. You want to know why these movies are steaming piles of elephant dung? Because the source material they were created from is also a hot mess of pachyderm poop.

In an interview with *USA Weekend*, writer Stephen King was asked about Stephanie Meyer, the author of the *Twilight* books, and J.K. Rowling, the author of the *Harry Potter* series. According to King, "Both Rowling and Meyer, they're speaking directly to young people... The real difference is that Rowling is a terrific writer and Stephenie Meyer can't write worth a darn. She's not very good."

I personally feel like if one of the most successful fiction writers of our generation says you suck at writing, there's probably some truth in the statement somewhere. It's like Michael Jordan telling you you're bad at basketball. At that point, it may be advantageous for you to throw in the towel.

I have heard people claim that the books redefine vampire fiction and elevate the archetype to a new generation. Really? So, if you make something sparkle, it then becomes redefining. No,

not only do they sparkle, but they all have special and unique superpowers, to boot. I'm sorry. Let's be real. What Meyer has done is taken something established, and trivialized it to appeal to an entirely inappropriate audience.

Also, from what I can tell, the books are just overindulged pieces of smut you would find on some sleazy fan fiction website written for little teeny-geeks to get off to. I'm sorry if you find that vulgar, but seriously. Every male character in the story is hyper-exaggerated and superfluously described to be ideal in all physical appearance. The female character is an emotionless snout who obsessively swoons over the aforementioned super males and four annoying books of worthless storytelling later, the vampire eats the baby out of her stomach.

Oh! Whoops! There's a spoiler. On any normal occasion, I would be sorry. However, just maybe, I hoping someone will now choose not to read these miserable wastes of paper because I ruined it for them.

He lay perfectly still in the grass, his shirt open over his sculpted, incandescent chest, his scintillating arms bare. His glistening, pale lavender lids were shut, though of course he didn't sleep. A perfect statue, carved in some unknown stone, smooth like marble, glittering like crystal.

That is an excerpt from one of the books that I copied from a website—I refuse to even touch one of the miserable books, let alone read enough of it to quote it. However, reread that little passage. Do you remember writing sentences like that? I know I do; except I wrote like that when I was in third grade and discovered what a thesaurus was! You can sound smart, too, by simply injecting superfluous adjectives into whatever you write, regardless of how it sounds.

I now also need to stop for a minute because I'm going to have people defending it jump down my throat. "What gives you the right to say these things about the book if you've never even read them?!" Well, let me just say this. I don't need to snort a line of cocaine to realize that it's a bad life decision; I don't need to put my face into a pot of boiling water to realize that would hurt my face. I have this mental capacity that I've been developing all my life—it's called common sense!

I don't need a degree in English literature to realize that everything about these *Twilight* books are nothing but worthless. If it walks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it's a duck. And this lame duck is the scourge of the English language—perverse, juvenile and all-together bad.

So please, students of SJC, I beg of you. Put down the book and back away.

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“Separate Journeys” to a Great Core Read

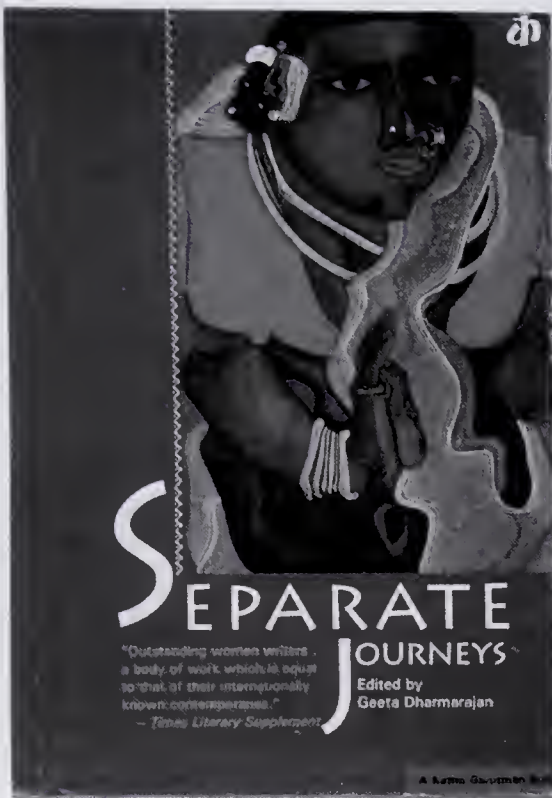
By Eileen Mills-Groninger
Staff Writer

As this semester draws to a close, it is harder and harder to find time to read a good book. Between our regular classes and the Core program, there hardly seems to be any time to sit down and pop open a classic. Occasionally though, the Core program provides us with a gem, and I was lucky enough to come across one this last week.

“Separate Journeys” is a compilation of stories written by female Indian authors. Some stories are heartwarming and others are absolutely confusing and cause the readers to scratch their heads and wonder what kind of drugs the author was on. More importantly, even though these stories are not written by American authors or even British authors, the themes in several of the stories can be compared to literature that many of us read in high school.

One of my favorite stories

was easily “The Decision,” by T. Janaki Rani. It tells the story of a man named Ramakrishnaiah who answers a knock in the middle of a night and then accepts a mother and pregnant daughter. When the daughter gives birth to her own baby girl, the old mother and daughter abandon the child and leave Ramakrishnaiah with the child. He raises the child as his granddaughter, but as the years pass, he finds himself face to face with the woman who abandoned her baby, and she is ready to take her daughter back. He then must



(Photo courtesy of http://www.lokvani.com/lokvani/a_images/1210separate_journey.jpg)

decide whether or not to keep the child or to let her go back to her mother. I will not reveal his

final decision, but I am sure you can guess. If you ever read *Silas Marner* by George Eliot, you might find that the two stories are quite similar.

Another story within this book reminded me of *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne. *Justice*, written by Urmila Pawar, tells the story of a man returning to his home in order to sell it. When he returns to the village, there is great drama about. The old man who had been renting his house had a widow helping him, and she is now 16 weeks pregnant. There is to be a meeting where she will be forced to reveal the identity of the father, and there is great pressure for her to terminate the illegitimate pregnancy. There is a rumor that a young educated boy is the father, but the young widow refuses to name anyone until the village hearing. She ultimately saves a few reputations, and the man who was looking to sell his land ends up keeping it so that his “daughter” would have a home. It was a very touching story as well,

and it kept me captivated and involved.

There are many other stories within this compilation, but I cannot begin to cover them all. There are stories about murder, love, vengeance, witches, cults, and simply a glimpse into life. Each story has something to tell, and they are all very short, quick reads. I highly recommend giving this Core book a chance, and you may be surprised to find yourself enjoying your homework.



THE BEST ALBUMS OF 2009

By Michael Garrity
Staff Writer

I sat down to prepare for this “Best of ‘09” list, and it was not until I had written out all of the albums in contention to make the cut that I realized just how awesome of a year this was for me in terms of music releases. I mean, five of what are literally my first six favorite bands (Brand New, Thursday, AFI, Taking Back Sunday and Thrice) released new CDs this year, some magnificent, some not bad, others pretty disappointing. Not to mention new groups I have been crushing on like Manchester Orchestra and Set Your Goals releasing their sophomore albums, and some other favorites I picked up along the way (Say Anything and Tegan & Sara) dropping new tunes as well. I even got a long-awaited solo disc from ex-Taking Back Sunday and current Straylight Run singer/songwriter John Nolan, an awesome “supergroup” collaboration in Monsters of Folk (featuring Bright Eyes, M. Ward, and Jim James of My Morning Jacket), and a new, four-song EP by Jack’s Mannequin, an artist in serious contention to be considered my favorite of all time. It only gets better because for those times when I stray away from my typical alternative/punk/folk genres, my favorite rap artist (Jay-Z) and metal band (Between the Buried and Me) also helped me to fill up my iPod and deplete my bank account in the last twelve months. Jeez, even Springsteen put out some new music in 2009! Yeah, it is a good year to be me, but which albums made the cut?

10. Bruce Springsteen – *Working on a Dream*: Sure, he got some points just for being the Boss, but to be writing songs for as long as Springsteen has and still being able to come up with something as different and great

as “The Wrestler,” he deserves credit. The best album he has released since *The Rising*, at least, is not perfect but when it is good, it is great. It’s one of the more eclectic albums in his 30+ year catalog with some of my favorite songs of the year.



(Photo courtesy of <http://30daysout.files.wordpress.com/2009/01/cover2.jpg>)

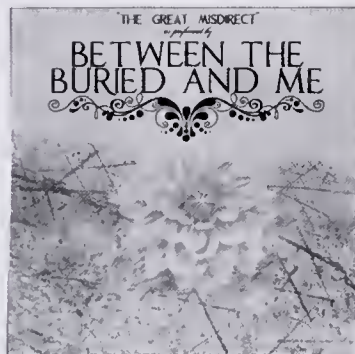
9. Jay-Z – *The Blueprint 3*: At this point, I think Jay-Z should just retire after each album. Since “retiring” back in 2003 with *The Black Album*, Jay-Z has come out with two of the best discs of his career, 2007’s soundtrack/album *American Gangster* and this gem. An excellent commentary on the modern music industry, *The Blueprint 3* shows a new side of Shawn Carter, in a good way.

8. Set Your Goals – *This Will Be the Death of Us*: Heavier, faster, and a bit more serious than their first album, these West-Coast pop-punkers may be the most fun band around today. They may have some serious themes, but these guys never take themselves too seriously. Barring one cringe worthy cameo by Paramore singer Haley Williams, this is a near flawless pop-punk album, just as well suited for road trip sing-alongs as it is for moshing.

7. Thursday – *Common Existence*: This band had completely lost themselves after the release of *Full Collapse* (2001), their seminal release. Finally, they struck a great balance between the post-

hardcore sound they helped pioneer and their own desire to grow more as songwriters and musicians. The result is *Common Existence*, an amalgamation of their back catalog infused with a newfound maturity, and their best album in eight years.

6. Between the Buried and Me – *The Great Misdirect*: Maybe the most original band of the past ten years (and certainly the only metalcore band named after a Counting Crows lyric), Between the Buried and Me have gone from writing fantastic metal albums (*The Silent Circus* and *Alaska*) to just writing great albums, period (this and 2007’s *Colors*). *The Great Misdirect* has a little of everything, but still enough of that BTBAM sound to appease long-time fans. Absolutely great album from beginning to end.



(Photo courtesy of http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_adwZiLeTtWY/SuFtazDoeVI/AAAAAAAAAA4/L7WIIrXhBY/s320/between_the_buried_and_me_the_great_misdirect-orig.png)

5. Tegan and Sara – *Sainthood*: What an odd niche to find, that of Canadian twin sisters who specialize about writing two-minute pop songs about heartbreak and relationships. But I guess someone had to do it, and Tegan and Sara do it so well. Equal parts experimental and traditional, this album is by far the most distinct in the band’s discography, but definitely just as good. It is hard not to get a smile listening to *Sainthood* because, as

they sing on “Northshore,” their “misery is so addictive.”

4. Brand New – *Daisy*: In my humble opinion, this is the band of the decade. Everything good about music since the turn of the millennium, these guys probably did it better than your favorite band. Sure, *Daisy* may be just a step below their last two releases (*Deja Entendu* and the magnificent *The Devil and God are Raging Inside Me*), but it really is hard to outdo perfection. An album that is dark, depressing, and all the better for it, *Daisy* is just another (excellent) step in the career of what may be the best band of our generation.

3. Thrice – *Beggars*: I love Thrice, and I have loved (or strongly liked) almost all of their albums, but I cannot say that any of them would have been in the top three of their respective release years. That alone should speak volumes for *Beggars*, an album that does about everything right, lyrically and musically. Like a fine wine, Thrice just keep getting better with age.

2. Fun. – *Aim and Ignite*: Pop perfection, plain and simple. Fun debuted this year, risen from the ashes of the most underrated band of the decade, The Format, with one of the most eclectic, smart, and, well, fun albums on my iPod. Excellent instrumentation and songwriting blended with possibly the best vocalist in the Independent music scene create a near-flawless record about family, love, and all of the other things that go along with being grown up. You are really doing yourself a great disservice if you have not yet listened to Fun.

1. Manchester Orchestra – *Mean Everything to Nothing*: Manchester Orchestra are a band that are far beyond their years. At just 19, singer/songwriter Andy Hull penned the band’s first disc,

I’m Like a Virgin Losing a Child, and at 21 he may have already written the best album of his life. *Mean Everything to Nothing* is a solid work of art full of emotion, angst, and desire, but it never comes across as whiny or “emo,” whatever that means anymore. There is not a bad moment on the disc and it only gets better the more you listen to it. Without a doubt, in my mind, the best album released in 2009 and the thought of these guys getting better excites me to no end.



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.musicdirect.com/shared/images/products/large/lm3417.jpg>)

Hope you all enjoyed 2009 in music as much as a did, but unfortunately I do not have much time to rest. February sees the release of the new Alkaline Trio CD, and I am sure there will be plenty more great releases on the horizon. In the meantime, go and pick up some of these great albums. If nothing else, they will make awesome Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanza/Solstice/Holiday celebration of your choice gifts.



All Saints Day Beats Out St Patrick's Day

By Sabrina Butts
Staff Writer

Watching Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day makes a person proud to be Irish, and the rest of us envious of those who can call themselves Irish. This movie, which was opened with limited release on October 30 and more widely on November 25, provides fans of the cult classic answers to the question of what happens to Connor and Murphy MacManus after the ending of the last movie, where they created a huge sensation in the city of Boston due to their actions as vigilantes. The drama unfolds as the boys return to Boston after a copycat tries to frame them for the murder of a local priest.

What happens after, I won't give away, for that wouldn't be fair. What I will tell you is that they get a third in their party again with knowledge of the goings on in the mob.

With Romeo's help, they begin to go after the men who framed them for the murder of an innocent, something that went completely against their beliefs those eight years before. Questions into their father's past are answered and many faces from the past are brought back, along with some new allies and enemies along the way.

I was worried when I walked into the theater, since so many times a sequel of a good movie does nothing but provide

disappointment. However, this was amazing, from the way they shot it to the weapons they used in the fight scenes.

The movie is unique in that you see how the brothers did something after the fact, when the detectives are there surveying the destruction they wrought. You see the scene reconstructed as the lead detective walks through it, pointing out evidence left by the brothers and their companion.

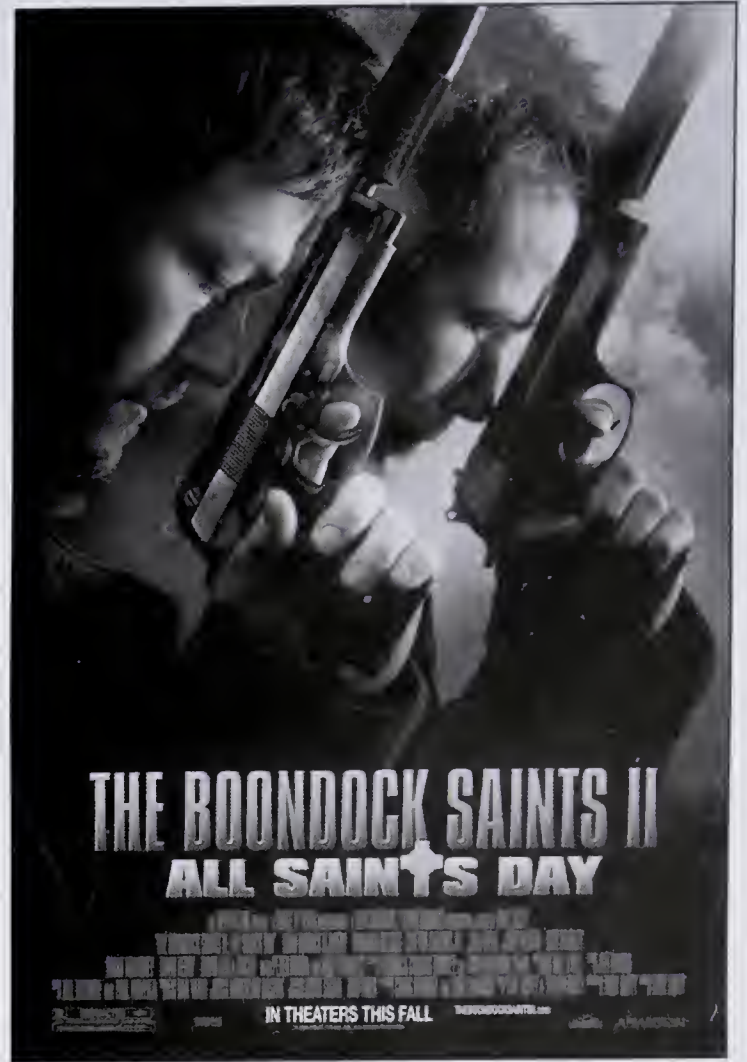
I highly recommend seeing this movie, but not before seeing the first one. This is because you will miss out on many of the jokes they refer back to throughout the movie, as well as some recurring characters that make this movie both hardcore

and hilarious.

The way it ends, however leaves me wishing for more and a third release, even knowing the dangers of adding sequels to sequels. If the third movie ends up being half as good as this one, however, it will be well worth seeing.



(Photo courtesy of http://media.avclub.com/images/media/movie/9483/Boondock-Saints-2_jpg_595x325_crop_upscale_q85.jpg)



I give this movie a 4.5 out of 5, or however I'm supposed to rate this. Definitely a must see movie for those cult classic fans.

(Picture courtesy of <http://moviecultists.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/boondock-saints-2-all-saints-day-poster.jpg>)

Unusual Gift Suggestions for Your Holiday Shopping

By Andrew Dudich
Staff Writer

With only two weeks left until Christmas, time is almost up for snagging the perfect gifts for your family and friends. No matter what your price range, the *Observer* is here to give you unique ideas that will leave your holiday gift at the front of your recipient's mind.

1.) Coal Gum – A delightful stocking stuffer, Coal Gum describes itself as the “naughty black bubble gum” and comes in a 2.5 ounce box. This is the perfect

small item for the individual you want to surprise with a gag gift that is not only hilarious but tasty.

2.) Transparent Toaster – Anyone close to me knows that I love toasters, but you don't have to be a toasting enthusiast to be fascinated by this ingenious appliance. Not only entertaining to stare at every morning, the transparent casing allows you to ensure that you achieve that perfect brown surface without burning your breakfast. Instead of traditional, bulky heating coils, this high-tech toaster heats the bread between two pieces of transparent glass. Don't worry if

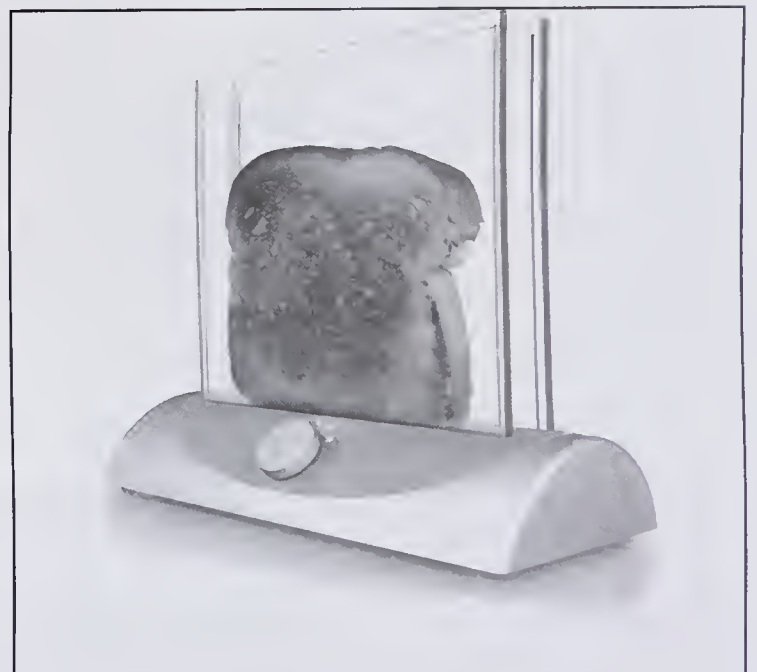
you're too busy in the morning to stare at the magnificence of a transparent toaster. A timer is also integrated into the design.

3.) HandSoap – Doesn't everyone already have soap? Well besides that stinky guy next to you in class, probably. But does their hand soap actually come in the shape of hands? To fill this void in life, the developer, Inventables, mixes goat's milk and glycerin together to create “HandSoap” in the shape of small hands up to two inches tall. For slightly less creepy shapes, you might want to pick another brand.

4.) Big Maoi Tissue Dispenser – Lovers of history or geography will love their very own Easter Island Head tissue dispenser. What better way to blow your nose than to pull a tissue from the nose of an ancient statue? If nothing else, you will be gifting a wonderful conversation piece that is not only interesting but useful.

5.) Mr. Bacon's Big Adventure Board Game – You can't go wrong here. At least half of the people you give this to will be delighted and have hours of amusement without ever opening the box. The company, Archie McPhee, invites you to journey through Meatland in an effort to be the first to reach the frying pan while avoiding the perils of the Sausage Sea and the Weiner Wasteland. For more bacon-related gifts the world isn't ready for, visit their website, McPhee.com.

6.) Giant Microbes –



A new way to toast (Picture courtesy of <http://www.britishcouncil.org/jp/turkey-arts-design-seffafekmek.jpg>)

Numerous children have had stuffed animals as well as the chickenpox. Mix these two childhood staples together and you get Giant Microbes! Whether you fancy Black Death, Salmonella, or Syphilis, you can get that loony biology major on your list the microbe of their dreams. What better way to say, “I love you,” than with the gift of stuffed Gonorrhea? They also have small creatures such as amoebas and maggots. Dr. Haskell has at least one of these on his Christmas list, but I'll let you decide which one.

While these are just fun suggestions, it sincerely is the thought that counts. No matter what you find for that special

someone, make sure it comes from the heart, because that is what makes it truly the perfect gift.



Handy Dandy Holiday Gift (Photo courtesy of <http://onemansblog.com/wp-content/>)



Bowl Game Match-Ups Decided

By Mitch Dean
Staff Writer

With the winding down of the college football season, it is now time to look forward to the postseason bowl games. With the plethora of bowl games that are played in the postseason it would be impossible to cover them all, so for this article we'll take a look at a few of the top games coming up this year, which looks to be quite an exciting set of match-ups.

First up, the BCS Championship, which will be a match-up between the Alabama Crimson Tide, who upset Florida in spectacular fashion to secure their spot, and the University of Texas Longhorns, who barely escaped a loss to Nebraska.

This clash of titans promises to be an exciting game, but in the end I think that Alabama will not only win, but control the game from the first snap to the last, and here is why – defense.

The Longhorn offense was utterly shut down by Nebraska in the Big 12 title game, and while Nebraska has a very tough defense, they still don't compare to the sheer athletic ability found all over the Crimson Tide defense.

On the offensive side of the ball, the advantage also goes to Alabama. The Florida defense that they faced in their last contest had allowed only four rushing touchdowns all season. Alabama scored two on the ground. The Tide's offense totaled just under 500 yards in their outing and put up 32 points on a very tough Florida defense.

To say the least, it does not look good for the Longhorns.

Next, let's turn the attention to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, which is a match-up between the University of Iowa Hawkeyes and the Boise State Broncos. Being an Iowa fan myself, I can't help but be a little bit biased, and a bit worried.

Boise State is one of the most potent offenses in college football, consistently putting up big points. They can score quickly with the pass game, or grind it out on the ground with a running back in Jeremy Avery rushing for over 1,000 yards. This means, as anyone involved in the game of football will tell you, that the guys up front on the offensive line have been getting it done all season long.

On the other side of the ball, the Bronco defense is a bit suspect, giving up two or three touchdowns in 8 games this season.

The name of the game in Boise is simple; score as many points as possible and hope the opponent doesn't catch up.

Iowa's season started out with a bang, going undefeated until a loss to Northwestern. An important factor in that loss was the injury of Ricky Stanzi, the Hawkeye quarterback and leader of the team. Without him in the game, the chance for an Iowa victory is diminished significantly.

The Iowa offense thrives on balance, producing through the run and the pass game while spreading the ball around to many players. This leads to an offense that is hard to predict, and therefore tough to defend.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Hawkeyes have done quite well this season. They have kept most of their games close, which takes a lot of

pressure off of the offense.

In order to come away with a victory, the Iowa defense will have to show up in a big way to slow down the Bronco offense. As a fan, I will be pulling for Iowa come game time, but realistically look for Boise to come away with the victory.

The final bowl game that we'll be taking a look at is the Allstate Sugar Bowl, which I believe will be a match-up between the Florida Gators and the Cincinnati Bearcats.

Florida was ranked number one all season long, taking down every opponent they faced with Tim Tebow calling the shots on offense and the oppressive Gator defense ensuring the victories. This was until Alabama rolled into town and took the number one spot away from them. Look for Florida to come into the game with a chip on their shoulders, looking to prove

that they didn't have that number one ranking for so long without a reason.

Now, you can't mention the Gators without talking about their Heisman winning quarterback Tim Tebow. Tebow has been a force to be reckoned with all season long, equally as dangerous on the ground as he is through the air.

In order to defeat the Gators, a team needs to contain number 15, which was the key to victory for Alabama Saturday night. Forcing Tebow to make bad decisions, forcing mistakes, and containing him on the run should be Cincinnati's first priority. Florida's defense has been good all season and should look to continue this trend into the postseason.

Cincinnati has offense going for them coming into the game. Lead by quarterback Tony Pike, the Bearcat offense has had no problem scoring. On the other side of the coin, they haven't seen an opponent as tough as the Gators.

Some would argue that Cincinnati is unworthy of their ranking due to the weak schedule they played to get to where they are. Be that as it may, the Bearcats have shown up in big games throughout the season and this will be the biggest yet for them. It should prove to be a good game, but look for Florida to win pretty handily.

There are many more games to be played this postseason than the ones listed here, but these are a few of the biggest. With these match-ups, this year looks to be a good competitive bowl season.



PHOTO: Boise State running back Jeremy Avery will lead the Broncos offense into the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl against the University of Iowa Hawkeyes. Alabama running back and Mark Ingram will look to run roughshod over the Longhorns in the BCS Championship game. (Photos courtesy of tri-cityherald.com and <http://1.bp.blogspot.com>)

Chicago Blackhawks Lock Up Young Stars

By Mike Korman
Staff Writer

Chicago Blackhawks fans should enjoy their promising young team while they can. Next year it won't be the same, as the team spent a significant portion of its salary cap locking up young stars Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane, and Duncan Keith.

The Hawks are only \$1.17 million below this year's cap of \$56.8 million. With Thursday's signings, the Hawks have fifteen players under contract for next season whose combined salaries add up to just over \$60 million.

With a roster limit of 23 players, general manager Scott Bowman will have to get rid of some quality players sometime in the near future. The salary cap for 2010-11 has not been

determined yet.

The club announced the length of the contracts on Thursday, December 3, with Keith getting signed for thirteen seasons and Kane and Toews for five each. Other sources said Keith's package will be for \$72 million, which

will make him the highest-paid player in franchise history. Marian Hossa, who is in the first year of a 12-year, \$62.8 contract, is currently the highest paid member of the team. Toews and Kane each will receive \$6.3 million

per season, though Bowman did not say their contract terms are identical. The two wanted to have their signings announced together, and Keith was glad to join the party.

After reaching the Western Conference Finals last year,

the Blackhawks have stormed to second place in the Western Conference with 39 points and an 18-7-3 record. They trail the first place San Jose Sharks by 4 points, although they have defeated them twice already this year.



Photos: The Chicago Blackhawks have signed young stars Duncan Keith (left), Patrick Kane (center), and Jonathan Toews (right) to contract extensions, locking up the team's core for the future. (Photos courtesy of thethrowdown.wordpress.com, nhllallstar2008.com, and karnowski.wordpress.com)

Notre Dame Football Head Coach Charlie Weis Reaches a Dead End

By Jeremy Butterfield,
Staff Writer

The University of Notre Dame's football program is going through a tough time right now. On November 30, 2009 head coach Charlie Weis was fired from after 5 years with the Irish and a 35-27 record. The Irish have a 6-6 record this year, and Weis was released before the season ended. The school is not going to a bowl game.

Weis got fired because his team was performing beneath expectations and the University expects National Championship contenders every year. He is not a bad coach; he is a great offensive coordinator, but in order to compete with other great schools ND needs a well rounded offensive and defensive coach.

The program's defense struggled which is Weis's weakness, and that is what ultimately hurt his record in the end.

Weis will be judged by his 35-27 record in his five years, and a winning percentage that is lower than the previous coach, Ty Willingham (21-16).

Notre Dame is now looking at coaches from Northwestern, Stanford, Cincinnati, and North Carolina. ESPN has listed these schools as the top coaches in the country and ND currently wants the University of Cincinnati's head coach Brian Kelly. Kelly is currently working



Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis was fired on November 30, 2009 after five years with the Fighting Irish. A loss to Stanford University was the last straw as the team is left to still decide on which bowl game to enter. A replacement has not been assigned as of now. (Photo by New York Daily News Online)

on an undefeated season. North Carolina's Butch Davis would

Northwestern University's Pat Fitzgerald is doing good things

with their program and he is an alumnus of the school. Stanford's Jim Harbaugh was considered for the head coaching spot at ND the last time around, but the University decided Weis was a better fit for the program. Harbaugh is doing really well at Stanford and they upset Notre Dame the last time they met 45-38.

Notre Dame may not need a lot of time to rebuild their program because they have a lot of good players. They just need a new defense that will work with the type of players they have. Hopefully a new coach is just what

the program needs to bring ND football back to where it used to be.



Notre Dame's Michael Floyd caught six passes for 85 yards and a pair of touchdowns, but the Fighting Irish were defeated by Stanford 45-38 on Saturday, November 28, 2009. (Photo by The Niles Star Online)

also be an ideal fit because he is a strong defensive coach, which is what ND needs right now.

Puma Basketball Profile: Kelsey Bess

By Kara Kristoff,
Sports Editor

Year? Senior

Major? Art

Hometown? Danville, IN

Position? Forward

Number? 20



Kelsey Bess is a senior Art major for the Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team. (Photo by SJC Sports Information)

Aside from basketball, what other sports do you enjoy?

Running, watching football, baseball, and golf!

What is your inspiration for giving 100% effort at every game and every practice?

My teammates. They give me 100% effort to me, so I want to give it right back

What are you going to miss most about the sport?

My teammates

What are your plans after SJC?

Graduate school for either Art Therapy or Photography

Who are your favorite professional athletes?

Ryan Theriot and Dwight Freency

What is it that you love about the sport?

I love the game because of the atmosphere, and the energy I get from playing it.

Which SJC basketball game(s) was your most memorable?

Our win against Bethel because we worked so hard as a team in preseason and to get our first win at home was great.

What are your favorite sports teams?

The Chicago Cubs and Indianapolis Colts

Who is your role model?

Jesus

How long have you been playing basketball?

Since I was five years old.

What's your favorite sports movie?

A League of Their Own

What is your favorite food?

Anything in the dessert category

What are you most looking forward to this season?

WINNING!

Saint Joseph's College Men's Basketball Team has a Hot Start to the Season with a 3-1 Record

By Kara Kristoff,
Sports Editor

The Saint Joseph's College men's basketball team has started out with a hot 3-1 record over difficult teams even without the student fan base on campus.

On November 21 the Pumas hosted the Ferris State University Bulldogs at Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse and won the battle 98-82. The first half had nine lead changes between the teams and the Pumas never held more than an eight point lead. The Pumas emerged with a 43-48 lead at halftime and the second half the team made some crucial changes. They tightened their defense and were able to jump to a 56-45 lead with the help of sophomore Sports Management major Phillip Collins's six second half points within the first five minutes.

Junior guards Michael Horton (Criminal Justice major) and Mike Lake (Sports Management major) impressively controlled possession and were able to force the Bulldogs to twenty-two turnovers and the team was able to score twenty-three points off them. The boys played a combined thirty minutes and only allowed one turnover.

Collins scored a team-high twenty-four points with six rebounds. Lake added seventeen

points with six assists. Junior Sports Management major Marcus Jackson ended with fifteen points and Horton added twelve points and five assists. Freshman Business

Administration major Dayvon Sloan finished with thirteen points, and senior Sports Management major Andrew Helmer had nine points and a team-high eight rebounds.

Unfortunately the Pumas had a tough first loss this season on Tuesday, November 24 to the 13th ranked Grand Valley State University Lakers at home 69-76. It was a back and forth

first half with a glimpse of the Pumas about to lead at halftime. The Lakers led 27-25 with two minutes remaining until Helmer drove to the basket and converted a lay-up to tie the game at 27. He put the Pumas ahead 28-27 when he sank a free throw when he was fouled on his previous basket. However, the Lakers were able to make six back-to-back baskets to put them up 33-28 at halftime.

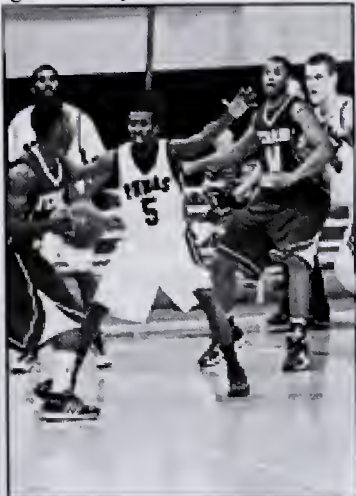
The Lakers continued to control the game with a lead as many as ten points. The Pumas battled and were able to cut the lead to one point on three occasions before tying the game at 56 with six minutes remaining. The Lakers were able to convert foul shots during the remaining minutes of the game to give them the edge they needed for the win.

Lake finished with seventeen points and Collins had 14 points. Helmer added seven points with a

team-high five rebounds.

The Pumas will begin their tough Conference schedule with some impressive non-Conference games thrown in the mix.

BELOW: Sophomore Phillip Collins had a team-high twenty-four points to help with the win over Ferris State University. The Pumas won 98-82. (Photo by SJC Sports Information)



Junior guard Mark Lake defends during a tough game to 13th ranked Grand Valley State University. (Photo by SJC Sports Information)



Karma and the Cosmos

By Mystical Martha



Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)
While cleaning, you get hit in the head when The Odyssey falls down off the shelf. You suddenly think you are Odysseus. You challenge random people to fights, try to avoid women so you don't get seduced, and pretend to sail everywhere instead of walk.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May. 19)
You decide to go camping with friends. However, this soon proves foolish because it's winter. You are forced to build a massive bonfire to keep warm. Your bonfire is so big that it can be seen from space and astronauts report it as a forest fire to Smokey the Bear.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)
You have been very arrogant lately and it starts to annoy your friends. It reaches the breaking point when you

demand that people apologize for looking at you. You get taken to the psych hospital.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)
While walking through the grotto, a leprechaun jumps out at you. You ignore it and run past because of all the stories about the grotto being haunted. You convince yourself that you must have been hallucinating from a lack of sleep.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)
You are contacted by a prestigious school and they want you to join their honors program. Sadly, they call back later and explain that they called you by accident. To make it up to you, they send a lifetime supply of gummy bears.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)
You and your best friend decide to form a karaoke duet. You travel to the best karaoke bars in the country and eventually end up at the World Karaoke Championship in Russia. However, you are forced to go home before it even starts due to threats from the Russian mafia.

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
You discover a new species of dinosaur in your backyard while working in your garden. You call up the Natural History Museum to investigate. They find out that it's just the bones of a cat, but give you an ice cream coupon for your troubles.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You dream every night for a week that you sibling is trying to stab your to death with a syringe. Disturbed, you spend all of Christmas break avoiding

your sibling and sharp objects.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)
One morning, a large boat shows up outside your dorm. Throwing logic aside, you get on and find that Andy Samberg, T-Pain, and that other guy are onboard to throw a party like a boss.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)
You want to prank your roommate, so you rig up a sound system to play creepy music all night and act like you don't hear it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)
Finals really get to you and you end up running around campus at two in the morning with sparklers several nights in a row.

Pisces (Feb. 18-Mar. 20)
You will get a mysterious craving for waffles. All month.

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for December 10
(219) 866-2222
fountainstonetheaters.com

2012 (PG-13)
Sat. 1:40, 6:20
Sun: 1:20, 4:10, 7:00
Mon-Thurs: 4:10, 7:00

A Christmas Carol (PG)
Sat: 4:30, 9:10
Sun: 2:20, 4:40, 7:10
Mon-Thurs: 4:30, 9:10

Old Dogs (PG)
Sat: 2:20, 4:50, 7:00, 8:40
Sun: 2:30, 4:50, 7:20
Mon-Thurs: 4:50, 7:20

The Blind Side (PG-13)
Sat: 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
Sun: 2:10, 4:30, 6:50
Mon-Thurs: 4:30, 6:50

Twilight Saga-New Moon (PG-13)
Sat: 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
Sun: 2:00, 4:20, 6:40
Mon-Thurs: 4:20, 6:40

Coming Soon!

The Princess and The Frog

Avatar

Did You Hear About the Morgans?

The Ritz Cinema

Movies for December 10
(219) 866-0086
www.ritzcinema.net

Amelia (PG)
Every night at 7:30

Coming Soon!
The Stepfather
2012
The Blind Side

Overheard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to ehq7585@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

"If you're healthy, you take it up the nose."

"If God gives you lemons, find a new god."

"I'm so glad we talked about Roger Daltrey's crotch in poetry class."

"I wasn't planning on hooking up with God."

"You get naked in the shower, right?"

"You're not opposed to necrophilia?!"

"The Greeks had McDonald's and the Romans had antennas?"

Fact of the Matter

Birds cannot go into space because they use gravity to assist them in swallowing, so they'd quickly choke and die in a non-gravity environment.

Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army remains the only person to date to have graduated from West Point military academy without a single demerit.

Strawberry Pop Tarts may be a cheap

Courtesy of www.angelfire.com/ca6/uselessfacts/

source of incendiary devices. Toasters which fail to eject Pop Tarts cause the Pop Tarts to emit flames 10-18 inches high.

Brain surgery is done with the patient still awake. The brain has no nerves, therefore, it has no sensation. The person is put to sleep to open the skull, but after that, the person wakes up to see the operation be completed.

Measure Spotlight

Kristel Miller

"Doodle Series"

Terracotta/white clay

Every issue we will be including a spotlight on all of the Measure submitters. We will be taking the best submissions and including them here, in the Measure Spotlight! If you have any poems or short stories you would like to submit, let us know. Send them to Elysse Hillyer at ehq7585.

